

Media statement from 10/4/18

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as the state agency with primacy for implementation and enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act, was notified October 3, 2018 by the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the public water system. The WSC has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The **do not use order** was issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system, and expanded to customers in the general vicinity. Since that time, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with WSC representatives on ensuring public awareness of this situation and has initiated multiple measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system. The TCEQ is coordinating with the WSC, as well other state partners. The TCEQ also has an open investigation into this incident to determine the cause.

Update - October 5, 2018

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as the state agency with primacy for implementation and enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act, was notified October 3, 2018 by the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the public water system; 11 connections. It is suspected that a backflow incident allowed a fungicide entered the water supply system. The WSC has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The **do not use order** was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system. The **do not use order** was expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution. Customers in the expanded area can use the water to flush their toilets but cannot use the water for any other purposes.

Since that time, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with WSC representatives on ensuring public awareness of this situation and has initiated multiple measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system. The TCEQ is coordinating with the WSC, as well other state partners and Environmental Protection Agency Region 6. The WSC has been and continues to flush the system to remove any potential contaminants. TCEQ investigators and engineers are on the ground and working with the WSC to address this issue. The TCEQ has an open investigation into this incident to determine the cause and source.

The **do not use order** will remain in place until the water system has been adequately flushed and samples indicate that the water is safe to use. It is not known at this time how long this may take, but the health and safety of the WSC's customers is TCEQ's priority.

The TCEQ has also coordinated with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and their staff are available to take calls regarding health concerns. Doctor Sharon Huff in the DSHS Tyler Region Office can be reached at 903-533-5264XXX, and affected citizens may also contact the

Texas Poison Center Network at 1-800-222-1222. Citizens may also contact the TCEQ Tyler Region Office at 903-535-5100 if they have any questions related to this incident.

TCEQ provided twenty-eight pallets of water to the WSC yesterday for affected customers, which is available at the Craft-Turney office, 505 Loop 456, Jacksonville. A local church, the First United Methodist Church-Jacksonville at 1031 TX-456 Loop, has opened its facilities to those affected by the do not use water notice for bathing and washing dishes between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Additionally, the TCEQ has requested its emergency response contractor to locate and provide a mobile shower trailer.